Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented):   A method of automatically forwarding a response to a message to the sender of the message, comprising:

    (a)   prompting the sender to provide a message;

    (b)   prompting the sender to identify a recipient, the recipient having a plurality of associated contact numbers;

    (c)   prompting a user to rank the associated contact numbers relating to the recipient identified in response to step (b) from highest to lowest;

    (d)   sending the message provided in response to step (a) to the highest ranked associated contact number to which the message has not yet been sent;

    (e)   prompting the recipient of the message to provide a reply to the message;

    (f)   waiting at least a predetermined amount of time;

    (g)   if no response to the message is received, repeating steps (d) through (g) with respect to the next highest ranked associated contact number until a response is received or the message has been sent to all associated contact numbers; and

    (h)   forwarding the response to the sender.

2.-4 (cancelled):   Please cancel claims 2 through 4.

5. (previously presented):   The method of claim 1, wherein the channel of communication utilized by the recipient for sending the response is different from the channel of communication utilized by the sender for sending the message.

6-7 (cancelled):   Please cancel claims 6 and 7.

8. (previously presented):   The method of claim 1, wherein the channel of
communication utilized by the sender for sending the message is by automated telephone
call.

9-34 (cancelled):   Please cancel claims 9 through 34.

35. (previously presented):   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

    (i)   converting a verbal message provided by the sender in response to step (a)
into textual form.

36. (previously presented):   The method of claim 35, wherein the message is sent to at
least one recipient by e-mail.

37. (previously presented):   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

    (i)   converting a verbal response provided by the recipient in response to step
(e) into textual form.

38-42. (cancelled):   Please cancel claims 38 through 42.

43. (previously presented):   The method of claim 1, wherein the message provided by
the sender in response to step (a) comprises a plurality of questions; and

    wherein the recipient is prompted in step (e) to provide an answer to each
question in the sender's message.

44-45 (cancelled):   Please cancel claims 44 and 45

46. (previously presented): A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the steps comprising:

    (a)   prompting the sender to provide a message;

    (b)   prompting the sender to identify a recipient, the recipient having a plurality of associated contact numbers;

    (c)   prompting a user to rank the associated contact numbers relating to the recipient identified in response to step (b) from highest to lowest;

    (d)   sending the message provided in response to step (a) to the highest ranked associated contact number to which the message has not yet been sent;

    (e)   prompting the recipient of the message to provide a reply to the message;

    (f)   waiting at least a predetermined amount of time;

    (g)   if no response to the message is received, repeating steps (d) through (g) with respect to the next highest ranked associated contact number until a response is received or the message has been sent to all associated contact numbers; and

    (h)   forwarding the response to the sender.

47. (previously presented): A system for automatically forwarding a response to a message to the sender of the message, comprising:

a processor;

a memory connected to said processor;

at least one communication interface in communication with said processor;

a display in communication with said processor; and

an input device in communication with said processor,

wherein said processor causes the sender to be prompted to provide a message;

wherein said processor causes the sender to be prompted to identify a recipient, the recipient having a plurality of associated contact numbers;

wherein said processor causes a user to be prompted to rank the associated contact numbers relating to the identified recipient from highest to lowest;

wherein said processor causes the message to be sent to the highest ranked associated contact number to which the message has not yet been sent;

wherein said processor causes the recipient of the message to be prompted to provide a reply to the message;

wherein said processor waits at least a predetermined amount of time;

wherein said processor repeatedly causes the message provided by the sender to be sent to the highest ranked associated contact number to which the message has not yet been sent, said processor causes the recipient of the message to be prompted to provide a reply to the message, and said processor waits at least a predetermined amount of time until a response is received or the message has been sent to all associated contact numbers; if no response to the message is received; and

wherein said processor causes the response to be forwarded to the sender.

48-49 (cancelled):   Please cancel claims 48 and 49.

50. (previously presented):   The system of claim 47, wherein said communication interface comprises a telephone connection.

51-52 (cancelled):   Please cancel claims 51 and 52.

53. (previously presented):   The system of claim 47, wherein said input device comprises a microphone.

54-57. (cancelled):   Please cancel claims 54 through 57.

58. (withdrawn):   A method of processing messages, comprising:

prompting each of a plurality of senders to send a message using one of a plurality of interfaces, including at least a telephone interface and an e-mail interface;

prompting a recipient to select an interface by which messages are to be forwarded to the recipient from a plurality of interfaces, including at least a telephone interface and an e-mail interface; and

forwarding each message sent by the plurality of senders to the recipient utilizing the interface selected by the recipient in step (b).

59. (withdrawn):   A method of processing inbound and outbound messages, comprising:

(a)   prompting an inbound recipient to provide at least one associated contact number;

(b)   prompting a sender to provide a message;

(c)   prompting the sender to identify a recipient, the recipient having at least one associated contact number; and

(d)   sending the message to at least one of the at least one associated contact number,

wherein, if the message is an outbound message, the sender is prompted to provide the message over the Web in step (b); and

wherein, if the message is an inbound message, the recipient is prompted to provide at least one associated contact number in step (a).

60. (withdrawn):   The method of claim 59, wherein the recipient identified in step (c) is the inbound recipient prompted in step (a).

61. (withdrawn):   The method of claim 59, wherein the recipient identified in step (c) is an outbound recipient.

62. (withdrawn):   A method of processing inbound messages, comprising:

(a)   prompting a sender to provide a message in voice form;

(b)   prompting the sender to identify a recipient, the recipient having at least one associated contact number;

(c)   converting the message provided by the sender in response to step (a) to text form; and

(d)   sending the message to at least one of the at least one associated contact number.

63. (withdrawn):   A method of processing outbound messages, comprising:

(a)   prompting a sender to provide a message in voice form;

(b)   prompting the sender to identify a recipient, the recipient having at least one associated contact number;

(c)   converting the message provided by the sender in response to step (a) to text form; and

(d)   sending the message to at least one of the at least one associated contact number.

64. (withdrawn):   A method of automatically forwarding a response to a message to the sender of the message, comprising:

(a)   prompting a sender to provide a message;

(b)   prompting the sender to identify a recipient;

(c)   placing a telephone call to the recipient;

(d)   providing the message and a set of prompts to the recipient if the recipient answers the telephone call;

(e)   automatically recording a message including a telephone number to call back if the telephone call is answered by a voicemail system; and

(f)   if the recipient places a telephone call to the telephone number provided in step (e), providing the message and a set of prompts to the recipient.

65. (withdrawn):   A method of processing outbound messages, comprising:

(a)   prompting a sender to provide a message;

(b)   prompting the sender to identify a recipient, the recipient having at least one associated contact number;

(c)   prompting the sender to customize at least one of the time at which the message will be sent, the text of at least one prompt, the number of prompts in the set of prompts to be provided to the recipient, the number of iterations of the set of prompts, and the type of data to be received in response to at least one prompt;

(d)   sending the message to at least one of the at least one associated contact number; and

(e)   providing at least one prompt to the recipient.

66. (withdrawn):   The method of claim 65, further comprising:

(f)   validating data received in response to a prompt provided in step (e) based at least in part on a data type relating to the prompt received in response to step (c).

67. (withdrawn):   A method of processing inbound messages, comprising:

(a)   prompting a sender to provide a message;

(b)   prompting the sender to identify a recipient, the recipient having at least one associated contact number;

(c)   prompting the recipient to customize at least one of the text of at least one prompt, the number of prompts in the set of prompts to be provided to the sender, the number of iterations of the set of prompts, and the type of data to be received in response to at least one prompt;

(d)   providing at least one prompt to the sender; and

(e)   sending the message to at least one of the at least one associated contact number.

68. (withdrawn):   The method of claim 65, further comprising:

(f)   validating data received in response to a prompt provided in step (e) based at least in part on a data type relating to the prompt received in response to step (c).